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Farm Wanted

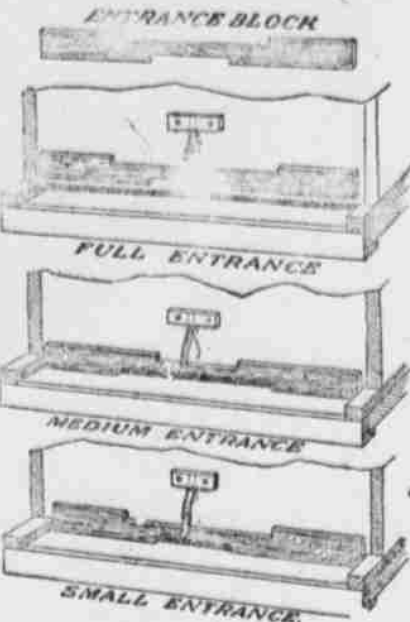
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POULTRY AND BEES

TRY IT ON YOUR HIVE.

An Entrance-Contractor Which Will Not Blow Away.

I use a bottom-board with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch cleats on the front, tapering down to $\frac{1}{4}$ at the back of the board, making an entrance $\frac{3}{4}$ by the width of the hive. This size is used on good colonies for June, July and August, and also for the winter months while



How It Is Put On.

In cellar, writes A. Tien of Falmouth, Me., in Bee Culture. When I wish to contract the entrance I use a notched stick held in position in front of the hive by a super spring. This is fitted between two small blocks 5-16 by $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$, fastened to the hive with two screws which hold the spring firmly. This entrance-block is put out on one edge $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$, on the other edge $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8. This is similar to the plan of E. F. Clark, p. 235, although I use one spring and one block which will stay in position. Neither wind nor chickens can remove it.

A $\frac{3}{4}$ entrance suits me well in summer, and for cellar wintering; and in fall or spring it can be changed in an instant without hunting for entrance-blocks.

CULLING IMPORTANT.

Prof. Orf, Kansas Experiment Station, Urges Thorough Work.

Not all poultry keepers cull their flocks closely enough. The best results come from careful culling. Prof. Orf of the Kansas experiment station emphasizes the matter thus:

Any chicken that is not paying for its food in growth or in egg production is a source of loss. As soon as the hatching season is over old roosters should be sent to the market. Market all hens two years or more of age. Send with these all the yearling hens that appear fat and lazy. By the time the young pullets are ready to be moved into quarters these hens should be reduced to about one-half the original number. Some time later a final culling of the old stock should be made. Those that have not yet begun to molt should be sold, as they will not be laying again before the warm days of the following February. This system of culling will leave the best portion of the yearling hens, which, together with the early-hatched pullets, will make a profitable flock of layers.

Many farmers practice no intelligent culling of their chickens, but allow old hens, together with runty pullets and scrub cockerels, to consume the food and occupy the room that should be used for the workers of the flock. A small number of the best chickens will pay more profit than a house crowded full of everything raised. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that pullets are more profitable than older hens, but as yearling hens are considered better breeders and better sitters it is well to keep a few of them through their second winter.

The pullets in permanent quarters should be well fed, and if they have been hatched at the proper season will begin laying during the fall months. As the weather turns cold and rains set in, the pullets should be confined to the houses and given careful treatment, for an outbreak of roup may result.

Producers of pure-bred poultry should exercise great caution in keeping their stock pure by not allowing cockerels to run with their hens too late a period before eggs are used for hatching purposes. Very little care is taken in this line on the farm where a farmer has more than spoiled one pure breed of poultry.

Make Them Jump for It.

To promote exercise of the fowls in cold weather hang up about three feet high in the henhouse or some dry shed pieces of meat, turnip, sugar beets, cabbage and like feeds for them to pick at. In this way they will not partake of too much of the feed and will get needed exercise on cold days.

Keep Them Busy.

Do not let the hens get in the habit of standing around all day doing nothing. When they do this it is an indication that they are too fat, diseased or fed in such a manner that they do not have to work for it. Activity and egg-laying go together. Either make the hens be active or keep ones that naturally are active.

FEEDING FOR EGGS.

Study the Flock and Avoid Overfeeding as Well as Underfeeding.

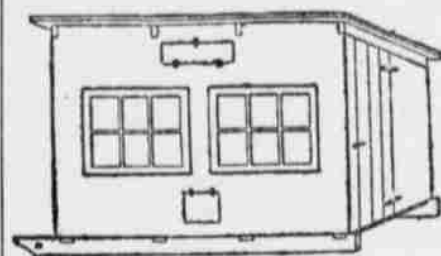
With eggs at 33 cents a dozen, and the grocer predicting 40, every poultry breeder is anxiously asking what he can feed to secure eggs. "I feed my hens so and so, I keep them free from lice, I almost live with them, and don't get an egg," complains one. "Our eggs cost us from fifty to seventy-five cents a dozen," says another, outlining a method of feeding which surely should bring results if anything could. The trouble is few people begin early enough to feed for eggs. Strong, healthy hens will lay on a very badly balanced ration, sometimes with poor housing and apparently little care. The reason is because they are vigorous, because they are sufficiently strong to digest and assimilate enough food to produce eggs. A hen might come from the very best laying strain, she might be fed an abundance of egg-forming material, but if she has not the ability to digest her food she will never be a valuable layer.

The best ration and the cheapest ration is the ration which brings us the greatest number of eggs and keeps our hens in the best condition. Chickens require a liberal diet in cold weather; too often they are fed enough to keep up the animal heat, but not enough to produce eggs as well. Hence a perfectly healthy flock may be a flock of poor layers. Whether the hens are not laying because they have not the digestion to assimilate their food and turn it into eggs, or whether they are not laying because they have not the surplus material for eggs, is a point the owner must decide for himself. Well hatched, well raised hens will always lay if they have abundance of food and abundance of fresh air. How they are fed is important, but equal importance should be attached to how they are bred.

A GOOD COLONY HOUSE.

Style of Building Which Is Not Expensive and Is Portable.

During the dull season our local lumber dealer and his assistant built some portable colony poultry houses as follows, writes an Indiana correspondent of Orange Judd Farmer: The frame is securely bolted to the sills



Portable Colony House.

which are made sled-runner style. The walls are made from closely-fitted tongue and groove drop-siding. The floors are tight, and the ventilators covered with screen wire to keep out rats, weasels, etc.; the cover of roofing felt. Each house is painted. The size is 6 by 8 feet; 6 feet high in front and 4 at the back. They cost me \$15 each for all material and work. Very likely they could be built for less in places where lumber is cheaper.

EGG MANAGEMENT.

Ration Which One Farmer Finds Effective with His Flock.

I have found no better egg ration than wheat and oats in the bundle for forenoon and principal feed, with corn late in the afternoon, writes a South Dakotan, in Orange Judd Farmer. A good, warm, well-seasoned mash of some kind on cold mornings three or four times a week is greatly relished, particularly if mixed with milk. The grain should be kept in the bundle and be fully three-fourths wheat. A little millet is excellent fed in the straw. I save much labor and other expense by feeding hens, sheep and other stock their grain in the bundle. Early cut corn and oats fed this way to stock give satisfactory results with me.

A steeply slanting floor in a hen-house can be kept dry and clean much easier than a level one. Feed bundle grain on the upper end, and straw and anything else will be scratched to the lower end, where there should be a small door to throw it out. The hens, if good, live ones, will sometimes scratch it out themselves. A floor 20 feet long should be at least 18 inches higher at one end than the other. Earth, gravel or cinders make a much better floor than boards.

With these surroundings, and the birds and feed described, with plenty of fresh water and green food, and a little fresh meat now and then, it is not a difficult thing to get both pleasure and profit from a large flock of poultry.

CAKLES.

Poultry products were never higher in price than they are to-day, and many farmers this year have begun to realize that poultry will yield them more profit than any other stock on the farm.

Pure-bred poultry pays, and it is none too early now to begin to select breeders for next season. Sell off all old males to prevent harmful inbreeding, and secure the very best new ones.

If your chickens are mixed and you wish to grow one kind only it will be well to build house and yard early this winter for confining the pure stock during the breeding season.

Keep the poultry house dry, light and clean. It has been found that chickens can stand considerable cold and do well if all other conditions are favorable.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Sunday School Lesson for Jan. 3, 1915
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Acts 1:1-4. Memory verse, 3, 4.
GOLDEN TEXT.—"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried into heaven."—Luke 24:51.

TIME.—The spring of A. D. 30. The Ascension, May 15. The ten days' waiting, May 15-24.
PLACE.—The Ascension was from Olivet, near Bethany. The meeting place of the disciples was in the upper room in Jerusalem.

PLACE IN HISTORY.—The close of the earthly life of Jesus Christ. The birth of the Christian religion.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.
The life of Jesus on earth, including (1) What he was; (2) What he did; (3) What he taught; was an essential condition of all his power during the centuries of Christianity.

It made him a real being to us, while unseen on earth.
It illustrates his teachings for all ages.

It was a perpetual ideal, by which to test all we are and do and teach.
It is in itself a supreme power to influence character.

Illustrations.—I know of no discordant note among educators in the testimony that "The greatest thing a teacher ever brings to a child is not the subject matter, but the uplift which comes from heart contact with a great personality."

President Charles F. Thwing records the results of "a very interesting study of 50 representative men to questions involving the best thing college does for a man." The entire drift of the testimony was that the most these men got from college was inspiration from life contact with great leaders.

"No nobler feeling," says Carlyle, "than admiration for one higher than himself dwells in the breast of man. It is to this hour, and at all hours, the vivifying influence in man's life."

The promise of the Father was the special, overflowing gift of the Holy Spirit, as we learn from verses 5 and 8, and the fulfillment of the promise in the next chapter. The Father had promised this gift through Joel (2:28, 29) as shown in Acts 2:17, 18; through Isaiah (42:15; 44:3); Haggai (2:5); Zechariah (4:6; 12:10; 12:10).

The promise is called The Promise, for it really includes all the promises of the coming of the kingdom of God.

The disciples were the instrumentality used by the Great Leader. God works not only directly on the hearts of men, but through his people on other men. God in men is the power through which the kingdom of God has so far come, and is to come in its fullness. "The agencies he employs must, by their very nature, be the Divine Spirit and the human disciple."—Kirtley. The achievements of the apostles in the story of the Acts were the account of what Jesus continued to do after his ascension. The author of "The Fifth Gospel" (i. e., Saint Paul's gospel as recorded in his epistles, many of them written before the first of our four gospels.) shows that the apostles not only preached the facts of Jesus' life, but the significance of the life which Jesus continued to teach them through their own experience guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1. They had their ideal in the promise of the Father.

2. They were imbued with power by the Holy Spirit.

3. They were changed, transformed, by the Holy Spirit, into new men fitted to carry on the work of Christ.

4. They knew the facts about Christ, and they experienced his presence and his teachings, so that they could be witnesses to the whole world.

It was at this time, doubtless, that the great change came over his body described in 1 Cor. 15:51-53. For such a change is signified by his appearance as John saw him (Rev. 1:12-16).

The importance of the Ascension.—

1. It is the one fitting ending to the earthly life of Jesus. Coming from the Father he returns to the Father.

2. The last view of Jesus is not on the cross, but going home in glory.

3. It kept before the disciples the fact that he is their ever living Saviour. We do not worship and serve and trust a dead Saviour, but one who is alive forevermore.

4. He can rule and guide his people infinitely better there than on any earthly plane, where but few could come into his near presence.

5. It places Jesus before all men as their ideal.

6. "It enables us to realize his divinity, without losing his humanity."

7. It gives us the true idea of his kingdom as a spiritual kingdom of righteousness.

8. The doctrine of the ascension with its hope of future glory, with its transfigured son of man (not son of Jew or Greek, but of man) on the throne, "adds new dignity to life," for the lowliest shall be changed into the likeness of his glorified body.

The power of faith in a supreme leader. The church without him would be an army without a general, the evolution of nature without a God. Never has been such a leader as the ascended and enthroned Christ.

The power of an ideal before all Christians, the ideal for each personal life in Jesus himself; the ideal to be gained by the church as a whole for which each disciple is laboring and to which he has consecrated himself and all he has and is.

The assurance of success is a mighty inspiration in the times of struggle with the powers of evil.

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